

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

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| Application # | 10/727,589 |
| Confirmation # | 7331 |
| Filing Date | 12/05/2003 |
| First Inventor | Flesch |
| Art Unit | 3761 |
| Examiner | Unassigned |
| Docket # | P08099US00/RFH |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

This IDS is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97-1.98 and includes the following:

- ☒ A listing of the references on PTO-1449.
- ☒ A copy of references which have come to applicant's attention.
- ☒ Note: this application was filed or entered the national stage after June 30, 2003 so
copies of the US patent(s) and/or published application(s) are not enclosed/required.
- A copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report which explains the relevance of the
references noted therein.
- A separate explanation of relevance.

Please note the following particulars concerning the filing of this IDS:

- ☒ This IDS is filed **within three months** of the filing date of a national application other than a
CPA, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37
CFR. §1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action
on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for
continued examination, whichever event occurs last.

..... This IDS is filed **after a first action**, but before a final action, allowance, or any other action
which closes prosecution, **and**:

..... is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

or

..... I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any
communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more
than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

..... I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a
communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to
my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated
in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

..... An appropriate statement is attached.

..... This IDS is filed **after** a final action or allowance, but on/before payment of the issue fee, and:
..... is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

and

..... I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

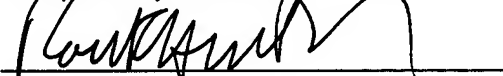
..... I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

..... An appropriate statement is attached.

..... This IDS is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97(i), **for placement in the file.**

☒ If no payment is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the payment enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-0555.

Respectfully submitted,

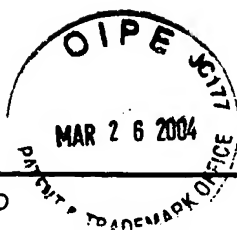


Date: March 26, 2004

By: Ross F. Hunt, Jr.

Registration No.: 24,082

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Initial* | Document No. Number - Kind | Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name Patentee or Applicant | Relevance Passages/Figs. |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | US-5,152,294 | 10-06-1992 | Mochizuki et al. | |
| | US-5,159,931 | 11-03-1992 | Pini | |
| | US-6,213,948 B1 | 04-10-2001 | Barthe et al. | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Initial* | DOCUMENT Country-Number-Kind | Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name Patentee or Applicant | Relevance Passages/Figs. | Trans- lation |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Initial* | Include NAME of the author (in CAPS), Title of Article/Item, Date, Page(s), Volume-Issue No., Publisher, City and/or Country where published | Trans- lation |
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Examiner Signature

Date Considered

* Examiner: Initial if considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.